

I suggest to the Hon. Minister is that in our educational programmes at secondary level, people must go through the use of such schemes, maintenance of batteries, maintenance of various things which are useful for the use of power which is so easily available. But the people in the villages are just frightened to touch it or the mischievous people spoil it. I know it from my personal experience. But without training the people how to use it, just giving them money or just giving them the machine will not work.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a good suggestion.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Madam, it is a very good suggestion. Many a time the users do not accept renewable energy technology, as they are unaware of the potential benefits of using them. I would suggest that renewable energy education should be made part of the school and college curriculum and it is only with the dissemination of the information that the benefits of renewable energy would reach the common man.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a good answer. What I believe is that his idea was not only to include it in the school curriculum but also, when you hand over this solar energy projects or wind energy projects, whatever the projects, to train them. Has the Government got any plan to have such an orientation programme for the villages where there is a potential for alternate sources of energy? You have to say only this.

MDA for handloom products

***242. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on Sathyam Committee recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to help the handloom industries; and

(d) whether Government would resume its Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) for handloom products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Apart from the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 under which 11 textile articles have been reserved for exclusive production in handloom sector, the Government have also issued a Hank Yarn Obligation Order under which a producer of yarn is obliged to pack a certain percentage of it in the hank form. In addition, welfare schemes and schemes for assistance in marketing of handloom articles have also been launched by the Government.

(d) Though the MDA Scheme has been discontinued in its present form, the Government would continue to support the handloom weavers in marketing their products through other schemes.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Madam, this is a very important issue related to nearly twelve million people of our country. As a result of the new economic policy, there is a fall in the agricultural prices and the countryside of our nation is suffering. After agriculture, handloom sector is an area which is providing a large number of employment opportunities. Here the situation is like this. There is a Sathyam Committee Report, which reviewed the entire affair, the problems, etc. of the textile industry. The Government is sitting tight on that Report. Nobody knows what is going on. Things are coming out partially and the people are quite afraid of the situation. We had the bitter experience of 1995 when hundreds of handloom workers committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh. If something happens in the handloom sector, such a situation will again arise in our country. Unfortunately, this Government is not at all serious. The Minister is making so many announcements here and there. He makes big rhetorics outside regarding the changes which he is going to make in this arena. Unfortunately, nothing concrete comes

out. I don't know when he is going to announce it. When will this report come out of the cold storage? Nobody knows about that. The Minister has to say that. Secondly,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may ask the second supplementary. Let him answer.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Madam, it is related to that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Okay.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Madam, our Government had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of ex-Textile Secretary, Shri Satyam. That expert Textile Committee had given its findings and recommendations to the Government. We are carefully considering each and every recommendation of that Committee. It includes all sectors of the textile industry, mill, handloom and powerloom. Now, we are carefully considering them. It will be announced very soon. The Textile Committee Report was submitted in August last year. It will be announced here very soon.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Madam, he is saying that he is going to announce it very soon. That means there is some anguish regarding the Sathyam Committee Report and its recommendations on the handloom sector. The reports in the newspapers reveal the fact that this Report itself is against the interests of the handloom sector. There are two or three issues. One is regarding hank yarn for the handloom. This very scheme has recommended about production of cone yarn. Cone yarn has to be converted into hank yarn which itself requires nearly Rs. 1000 crore per year. Naturally, there is apprehension in the minds of the handloom workers. What are you going to do about hank yarn? Secondly, the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme is a very important scheme. This scheme was introduced with a view to ensuring continuous production and employment in the handloom sector.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Madam, is it a question or a speech?

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Madam, this issue is very

important because two crores of people are involved in it. *(Interruptions)*. People were protesting outside. *(Interruptions)*. But you did not respond to them. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Madam, why is he losing his temper?

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Madam, he represents some other section of the people. This is a very important issue which relates to the workers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Madam, I am speaking on the basis of the reply given in the House. I have every right to seek an explanation from the Minister. He has given this reply. What is wrong in it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: What is he doing in regard to the MDA Scheme? The MDA Scheme has been discontinued. The Minister has said that they have introduced something afresh. What are you doing in this regard?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, the question is very specific about handloom weavers. I also know that many people have committed suicide. What are you going to do about it?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Madam, apart from the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 under which 11 textile articles have been reserved for exclusive production in the handloom sector — the Government has extended this order — the Government has also issued a Hank Yarn Obligation Order under which a producer of yarn is obliged to pack a certain percentage of it in the hank form. In addition, welfare schemes and schemes for assistance in marketing of handloom articles have also been launched by the Government. The MDA Scheme was closed in 1997-98. After that many State Governments and other agencies told us to extend this Scheme. This Scheme was extended up to March 2000. Now we have proposed a new scheme, i.e. the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Scheme which includes marketing

incentives and other schemes. All the necessary things which are needed for the survival of the weavers have been included in this scheme. The hon. Member said that there was no MDA Scheme. The Government is going to give such assistance in other forms.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: But what about rebate? In the MDA Scheme, rebate was very important. What are you going to do about the rebate?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: We are going to announce a new scheme, i.e. the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Scheme. This scheme will give all kinds of incentives.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Madam, after agriculture, the largest economic activity is in the handloom industry which provides direct and indirect employment to more than 65 lakh people. This sector produces 19 per cent of the total cloth produced in this country. My question is this. When would the Government implement the Sathyam Committee report? Will the Minister give a specific date? What benefits are they going to give to the handloom workers because repeatedly they are committing suicide? What action is the Government going to take in this regard?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Madam, on the basis of the Sathyam Committee report, we are going to announce a new textile policy in the month of September.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: In which year?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: In the current year.
(Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me clarify. Mr. Minister, the basic question is that there are a lot of problems in the handloom sector. There are reports that a number of people in the handloom sector, especially in Andhra Pradesh, have committed suicide. The Members have raised this issue several times. Shri Rana knows about it. The point is, the Government appointed a committee; there are so many things in this Committee's Report. But specifically what we are concerned about are: What are you

going to do? When is the Report going to be made public? When are you implementing it? Is there any time-bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Respected Deputy Chairman, so far as the handloom sector is concerned, the Government is also very anxious to look into the interests of the handloom weavers. The Sathyam Committee Report would formulate a new textiles policy and the handloom sector also will be covered under this policy. I wish to say that the Government will, as early as possible, announce the new textiles policy. So far as the suicidal cases in the handloom sector are concerned, not a single case of suicide on account of some difficulties prevailing in the handloom sector has come to the notice of our Ministry.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam, the State Minister says, "September", and the senior Minister says, "as early as possible". I hope 'as early as possible' means September.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I again say 'as early as possible'.

प्रो० रामगोपाल यादव: मैडम, हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री से जुड़े हुए लोगों का जीवन पिछले कुछ वर्षों से निरन्तर बहुत दयनीय होता चला जा रहा है। इससे जुड़े हुए सब लोग गरीब तो हैं ही लेकिन उनकी स्थिति बद से बदतर होती चली जा रही है और संभवतः इसी वजह से इस तरह की कमेटी अप्वाइंट क्री जाती है जिससे उनको राहत दी जा सके। टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में जिस तरह की नई टेक्नलाजी आ रही है, उससे हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री के लोग उनसे कंपीट नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। इसलिए यह आवश्यक हो गया है कि हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री को गवर्नमेंट मदद करे। मैं दो प्वाइंटेड सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री से जुड़े हुए लोगों को सब्सिडाइज्ड रेट पर सूत मुहैया कराया जाएगा और उनके द्वारा बनाए गए कपड़े को क्या गवर्नमेंट निश्चित मात्रा में खरीदे ताकि उनको उसको बेचने में कोई दिक्कत न आने पाए?

श्री काशीराम राणा: मैडम, सरकार एक नई योजना घोषित करने जा रही है, उनको दीनदयाल हथ-करघा प्रोत्साहन स्कीम। इस स्कीम के अंदर वरकर्स को, वीवर्स को जितना सूत चाहिए वह उनको मुहैया होगा और उसके बाद अगर हैंडलूम का कपड़ा बनता है तो उसके लिए मार्केटिंग की व्यवस्था भी हमने हथकरघा प्रोत्साहन स्कीम में सम्मिलित की है।

प्रो० रामगोपाल यादव: उनको सस्ता दिया जाएगा, सब्सिडाइज्ड रेट पर दिया जाएगा?

श्री काशीराम राणा: जहां अधिक सूत की आवश्यकता हो, अगर जरूरत महसूस करते हैं तो वहां सूत सस्ता व सफिसियेट....

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: That is not the question. The question is whether you are going to provide them with cheaper cotton. जब हमारे पास पैसा नहीं है तो आप चाहे कितना ही सूत भेज दें वे खरीद ही नहीं पायेंगे। जब पैसा नहीं है तो कैसे खरीदेंगे। इसलिए सस्ते दाम पर दे रहे हैं या नहीं दे रहे हैं दैट दि क्वेश्चन।

श्री काशीराम राणा: मैडम, हथकरघा बुनकर जो हैं उनको सस्ते दाम पर सूत मुहैया करने के लिए ही हमने हैकयार्न आब्लीगेशन स्कीम चलाई है। जो भी स्पिनिंग मिल्ट्ज़ हैं उनसे हम परसेंटेज के हिसाब से हैक यार्न लेते हैं और वह हम मिल के दाम पर उनको मुहैया करवा देते हैं। सवाल यह है कि कहीं कहीं पर सूत नहीं मिलता है तो वहां भी गवर्नमेंट अगर हमें ज़मीन देती है तो हम हैक यार्न बैंक भी खोल देते हैं जिससे हमारे बुनकरों को सस्ता सूत मिल सके। जहां तक आपने एक सवाल हथकरघा टेक्नोलोजी के बारे में किया है, जो हमारी नयी स्कीम अभी थोड़े समय में घोषित होगी, उसमें दीन दयाल हथकरघा प्रोत्साहन स्कीम में हथकरघा को हमने टेक्नोलोजी अपग्रेडेशन के लिए कुछ आर्थिक प्रावधान किया है। इस प्रकार से थोड़ी मेहनत में और इजीली वह हथकरघा चलाएं और अच्छी तरह से कपड़ा बना सकें, ज्यादा कपड़ा बना सकें इसकी टेक्नोलोजी को डवलप करने के लिए हमने उस में प्रावधान किया है।

उपसभापति: आज 9 अगस्त के दिन इसका और इम्पोटेंस बढ़ जाता है क्योंकि आज क्विट इंडिया डे है, सब लोग खादी के ऊपर बात कर रहे हैं। मनमोहन सिंह जी भी इस विषय में कुछ बोलने वाले हैं। देश में आज के दिन के महत्व के हिसाब से आप अगर कोई अनाऊंसमेंट हथकरघा के सिलसिले में करेंगे तो एक अच्छा मेसेज उन गरीब लोगों के लिए जाएगा।

श्री काशीराम राणा: उपसभापति महोदया, खादी के लिए और हैंडलूम के लिए, हमारे देश में जो बुनकर हैं, वीवर हैं, इनके लिए हमारी गवर्नमेंट तो कमिटेड है। आपने जो 9 अगस्त का जिक्र किया है, इनके बारे में जहां तक भी हो सके, जितना भी हो सके टेक्सटाइल मिनिस्ट्री से कोशिश हो रही है।

प्रो० रामगोपाल यादव: गांधी आश्रमों में हड़ताल चल रही है, वह बंद होने जा रहे हैं।
(व्यवधान)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: उपसभापति महोदया,...

उपसभापति: उनको बुलाया है, वो बोल दें। आप क्वेश्चन आवर के बाद बोल लीजिये।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, throughout the country, there is a lot of heartburning among the handloom weavers on the report that has appeared in certain sections of the Press with regard to the Sathyam Committee recommendations with particular reference to the handloom sector. Is it a fact that Members of Parliament have written to the Government that the Sathyam Committee recommendations with regard to the handloom sector should not be approved straightway because the recommendations, are against the interests of the handloom sector? This is the impression outside. As per my knowledge, certain Members of Parliament have made a representation to the Government in this regard. If so, what is the response of the Government? How are they going to tackle this issue? Will they refer it to a sub-committee or are they going to rethink on the recommendations of the Sathyam Committee? Madam, I am afraid, simply announcing the policy will not solve the problem. There are practical problems involved in this. The entire handloom community is agitated over this issue. So, I would like to know from the Minister as to what he is going to do with regard to the concern expressed by the handloom sector with reference to the Sathyam Committee recommendations.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: For a change, we are in agreement with you...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Madam, as far as the Sathyam Committee recommendations are concerned, the Government is carefully examining them. The Government is not taking into consideration the recommendations of the Sathyam Committee about the handloom sector. As regards Reservation Act for exclusive production of 11 items in the handloom sector, obligatory order for hank form and other allied handloom assistance, the Government is very much concerned about the condition of the handloom weavers. They must be protected in all ways. It has already been said in this House in connection with a Private Member's Bill that the handloom

sector will be protected. The Sathyam Committee recommendations about the handloom sector will not be considered...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Madam, in regard to the supplementary put by Shri Venkaiahji, I would like to inform him that before submitting its report to the Government, the Sathyam Committee had contacted so many persons and a number of organisations throughout the country. It also got many valuable suggestions from various organisations. On the basis of those suggestions, it submitted its report to the Government. But so far as the suggestion of Shri Venkaiahji is concerned, it will definitely be kept in mind.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Madam Deputy Chairman, in the written reply, the hon. Minister has stated that the Government have issued a hank yarn obligation order, under which a producer of yarn is obliged to pack certain percentage of it in the hank form. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the yarn producers are observing this obligation or not. I would also like to know the number of yarn producers who are observing this order and the number of those who are not observing this order. I would like to know the action taken against those yarn producers who have not fulfilled the obligation.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Hank yarn obligation order is extended beyond 1.4.2000 now without any change of provisions. The order now says that every producer of yarn, for civil consumption, is required to pack not less than 50% of the total yarn with hank yarn. If any person is violating this order, the Government will take definite action now. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I will give the full details.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि सत्यम कमेटी की सिफारिशों को लेकर तो परस्पर विरोधी प्रतिक्रियाएं हैं लेकिन 1995 में एक याचिका राज्यसभा की याचिका समिति को सौंपी गयी थी, कमेटी आन पिटीशंस, जो देश के हथकरघा बुनकरों की दुर्दशा के बारे में थी और स्वयं उसकी अध्यक्ष के नाते मैंने इस सदन में उसकी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की थी। इसमें पूरे देश के हथकरघा बुनकरों की दशा

का अध्ययन करके हमने उपाय सुझाए थे और सिफारिशों की थीं कि कैसे हथकरघा बुनकरों और हथकरघा उद्योग की दशा को सुधारा जा सकता है। क्या मंत्री जी की निगाह से उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट गुजरी है और अगर गुजरी है तो आज पांच साल हो गए हैं उन सिफारिशों पर आपने क्या अमल किया?

श्री काशीराम राणा: उपसभापति महोदया, 1995 की रिपोर्ट का जिक्र किया गया। सत्यम कमेटी ने भी उस रिपोर्ट के ऊपर नजर डाली है, स्टडी की है। इतना ही नहीं मैडम जो उसमें सुझाव दिए गए हैं उनके अलावा भी मिनिस्ट्री के ज्ञान में जो भी डिफीकल्टीज हमारे बुनकरों के बारे में हैं और वह हमारे सामने आई, उसको सुलझाने की हमने कोशिश की। अभी जो हमारी कई सारी योजनाएं हथकरघा बुनकरों के लिए चलती थीं जैसे कि हाउसिंग की स्कीम है चाहे ग्रुप इंश्योरेंस की स्कीम हो। पीपीएस के तहत उनको और सारी ग्रांट्स देनी हों, इनका इम्पैक्ट और भी अच्छा हो इसीलिए हमने नये सिरे से एक पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय के नाम से दीनदयाल हथकरघा प्रोत्साहन स्कीम बनायी है। इसमें मूलभूत इन्पुट्स से लेकर हथकरघा मार्केटिंग तक पूरी व्यवस्था है और जैसे कि 1995 की रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि बुनकरों की क्या क्या डिफीकल्टीज हैं, उनका ध्यान रखा गया है। इसके अलावा भी उनकी जो डिफीकल्टीज हैं उनको सामने रखकर हमने स्कीम बनायी है। मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है—शायद हो सकता है कि सब साल्यूशन तो नहीं निकले लेकिन बहुत सारे साल्यूशंस इस स्कीम से निकलेंगे।

श्री नाना देशमुख: उपसभापति महोदया, मैं समझता हूँ कि जो हथकरघा बुनकर हैं उनके लिए केवल सूत उपलब्ध करा देना और उनके बने हुए माल की मार्केटिंग करना, इतनी ही समस्या नहीं है। वास्तव में हथकरघा बुनकरों की समस्या दूसरी है। उपसभापति जी, मैं उस इलाके में सालों रहा हूँ जहाँ कि कबीर महोदय का जन्म हुआ और उस इलाके में हथकरघा बुनकरों की तादाद बहुत ज्यादा है। महोदया। हमारे यहाँ छोटी-छोटी जगहों पर बड़ी-बड़ी मिलें थीं। उन लोगों ने कपड़े पर मोनोपॉली कर रखी है और आज स्थिति यह हो गयी है कि पावरलूम के लोग जो पैसे वाले हैं, वह इस प्रकार के पावरलूम जगह-जगह पर लगा रहे हैं जिन के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा करना हथकरघा चलाने वाले लोगों के लिए मुश्किल हो गया है। मैं मुबारकपुर का ही नहीं, अनेक उदाहरण दे सकता हूँ जहाँ पावरलूम के कारण हथकरघे पूर्ण रूप से बंद पड़ गये हैं। वास्तव में यह गंभीर समस्या है...

उपसभापति: मुझे लगता है कि इस विषय पर पूरे तरीके से विचार के लिए हाउस में डिस्कसन होना चाहिए क्योंकि यह तो क्वेश्चन अवर है, आप उनके प्रश्न का जवाब जरूर दे दीजिए, उस के बाद हम अगले प्रश्न पर जाएंगे।

श्री काशीराम राणा: मैडम, मैं माननीय सांसद श्री नानाजी की बात से पूरी तरह

सहमत हूँ। हम जानते हैं यह बात सही है कि जैसे-जैसे सारा जगत, सारा देश ग्लोबलाइजेशन और मा'डर्नाइजेशन की ओर जा रहा है, धीरे-धीरे कर के आज हथकरघा की जगह पावरलूम ले रहा है। यह बात सही है, जैसे कि गुजरात में जहाँ 70 हजार हथकरघा थे, आज 7 हजार हथकरघा भी नहीं हैं क्योंकि सब ने पावरलूम लगा दिए हैं। महाराष्ट्र और आंध्र में भी वही स्थिति बनने जा रही है। यह एक प्रक्रिया का सवाल है कि ज्यादा आमदनी है तो लोग पावरलूम लगा रहे हैं। फिर भी हथकरघा का एक्सप्लाइडेशन न हो, हथकरघा का मार्का लगाकर पावरलूम—का माल न बिके और इस से हथकरघा सेक्टर को प्रोटेक्शन मिले, इस के लिये कानून भी है और राज्य सरकारों को भी हम सावधान करते हैं कि आप बड़ी कड़ाई से इस कानून का इस्तेमाल करें जो भी ऐसा काम करते हैं, उन को सजा दीजिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On the 16th, we are having a Calling Attention almost on a similar issue, that is, *khadi gramodyog*. I think the Members should take this opportunity to discuss this problem. I remember Pragada Kotiah, one of those people and who is no more with us, used to raise this issue almost in every Session. We should discuss this issue because it is a chronic problem. Now we move on to Question No. 243.

Conversion of SU-30 Aircrafts

***243. SHRI KHAGEN DAS:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SU-30 aircrafts procured from Russia have not yet been converted into multi role aircrafts due to delay in development of indigenous avionics and computer system.

(b) if so, whether any commitment was made by the Indian Scientists and technical experts that these would be converted into multi role aircrafts; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Conversion of SU-30 into a multi-role aircraft is being done in Russia by Russian technologists *inter alia* involving integration of indigenously developed avionics and